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AIRSHIPS OF ALLIES AND BRITISH FLEET ASSIST LAND FORCE

Paris and Berlin Reports Indicate Offensive Movement of Anglo-French Armies Has Resulted In Gains and Kaiser Deems Situation Grave Enough To Go To Front

BATTLE IS GENERAL

LONDON, DECEMBER 22.—REPORTS FROM PARIS AND BERLIN received yesterday and last night indicate that the offensive movement of the Allies yesterday resulted in some small gains at several points, and some reverses sustained in Flanders earlier in the day have been overcome.

Dispatches to the Daily Mail from Dunkirk last night reported that the Allies made an aerial raid upon the German Zeppelin sheds at Brussels during the night and set fire to the sheds by dropping bombs upon them.

AIRMEN RAID GERMAN POSITIONS

At the same time an aeroplane raid was made upon the German positions on the Belgian coast. These were bombarded by the aviators, who report that considerable damage was inflicted upon the enemy by twelve well-placed missiles.

The Berlin announcement yesterday said:

"On the La Bassee canal we stormed trenches occupied by the Anglo-French forces and captured one field piece, five machine guns, two mine throwers and 280 prisoners, including ten officers."

BRITISH REGAIN TRENCHES THEY LOST

Paris reported last night as follows:

"The British regained most of the trenches lost. We have held the enemy's position south of Noyon, and have gained a hold in the first line of the enemy's position."

Paris also reports small gains made all along the line, particularly between Argonne and the Meuse, while advices from Amsterdam say the Germans have evacuated Middelkerke.

The British warships are again bombarding Zeebrugge, Heyst, as well as the coast beyond Ostend. This, taken in connection with the aerial raid and the determined attacks in Flanders, shows that the concerted offensive movement of the Allies is well under way, and an attempt is being made to drive the Germans out of Belgium and France.

KAISER GOES TO FRONT IN WESTERN ZONE

The situation is so serious that the Kaiser, accompanied by the imperial chancellor and the ministers of war and marine, has gone to the western front, according to advices from Copenhagen to the Daily Mail.

The early official dispatches from Paris yesterday announced: "Except for some progress near Bombaertzyde, St. George and southeast of Bixchoote, nothing noteworthy has happened in Belgium."

"Between the rivers Lys and Aisne we have captured the forest between Noulette and Souchez and stormed the entire first line of German trenches."

HEAVY ARTILLERY DOES EFFECTIVE WORK

"Our heavy pieces have repeatedly silenced the enemy's artillery east of Albert. We have demolished some trenches and destroyed two German guns near Home."

"In Champagne and in the forest of Argonne appreciable advances have been made along the entire front."

"Near Beausejour we have occupied 1200 yards of trenches. In the forest of Lagurrie we blew up four mines with saps and established ourselves in the positions thus taken."

"Between Argonne and the river Meuse we have advanced 500 yards. In Arennes progress has been made along the entire front."

ALLIES' OFFENSIVE BRINGS ON FIERCE FIGHTING

The operations of yesterday and last night are accounted for by the explanation that after a long period of spasmodic fighting at detached points, the Allies' operations have changed in character and their widespread forward pressure constitutes a general attempt to force back the entire western end of the German line. The French and German official statements show that this offensive move has brought out the fiercest fighting since the Germans attempted to capture the channel ports.

The French reports, always conservative and circumstantial, show steady gains being made against a determined resistance. The Allies have brought up their enormous weight of artillery to batter the enemy's positions.

BERLIN REPORTS SEVERAL SUCCESSES

The Berlin official announcement yesterday reports several successes in France and Belgium. The dispatch says:

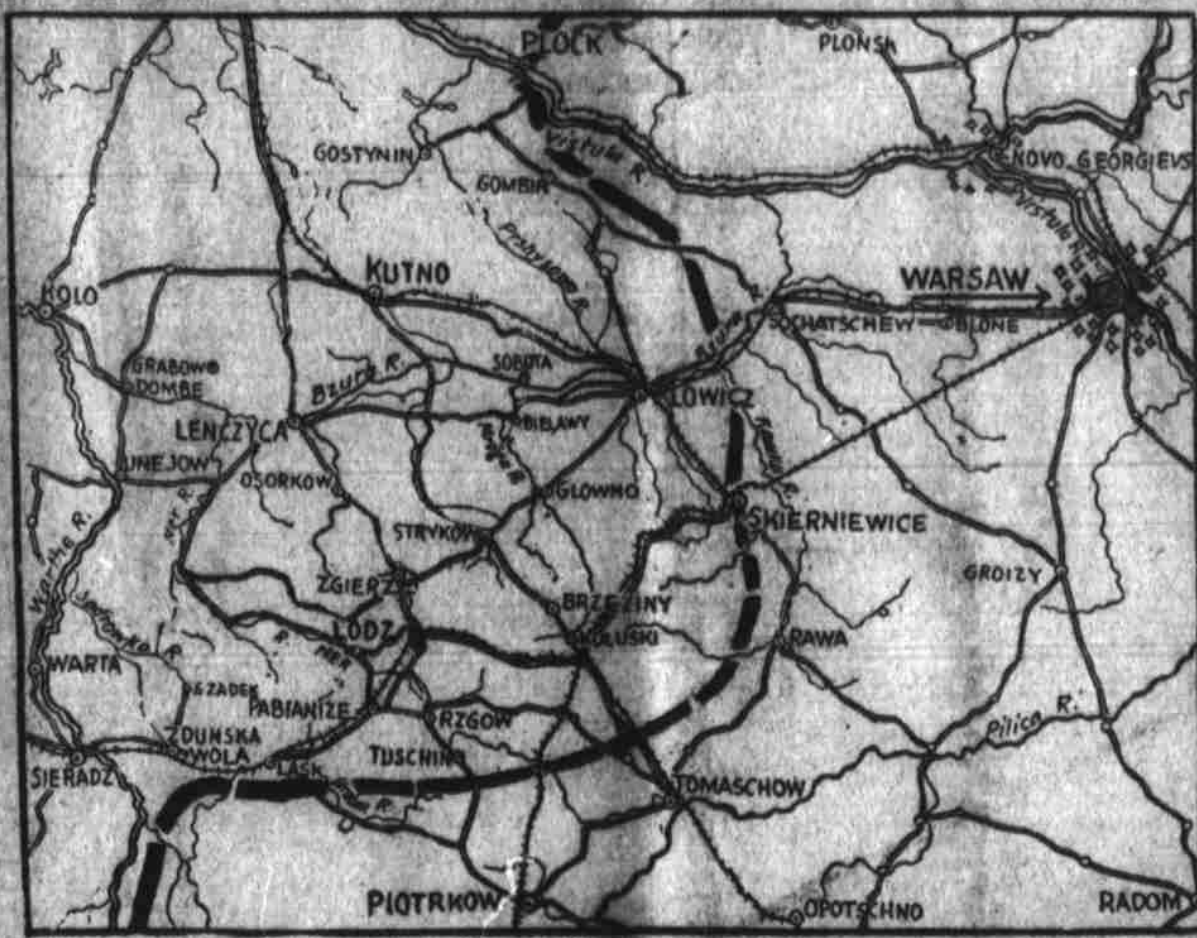
"The French attacks made yesterday at Neuport have been repulsed."

"Near Notre Dame and Lorette we recaptured trenches lost on December 18. Near Souvain a severe French attack penetrated our outer trenches, but broke under the German fire, and the French left 310 prisoners and many dead."

"In Argonne we have captured an important hill near Lefour de Paris, with three machine guns and 275 prisoners."

(Continued on Page Four)

Russian Line in Central Poland, Showing How Center Has Been Driven Back From the Warthe



Soldiers of Holland on Duty at the Dutch-Belgian Border.



SWEDEN DECLINES TO JOIN TEUTONIC ALLIES IN WAR

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless)
LONDON, DECEMBER 22.—According to information received in dispatches from Copenhagen, Germany has called upon Sweden to join the Teutonic Allies and declare war upon the Triple Entente.

This proposal, according to the Daily Telegraph's informant, was ignored by the Swedish government.

In the event Sweden came to the assistance of Germany and entered the war, says the Copenhagen dispatch, the Germans offered as compensation the Baltic Islands and a protectorate over Finland. The Swedish government declined to consider the offer at all.

The conference of the Kings of Norway and Denmark with the King of Sweden at the seaport town of Malmo, on Friday and Saturday of last week,

was called to consider the policies of the Scandinavian countries towards the war.

It is understood that the formation of a Scandinavian union for the purpose of resisting any acts of aggression tending to embroil any of these countries, was the subject under discussion by the sovereigns. Russia has evinced great interest in the proposal to form such a union.

TERRIBLE PROJECTILE INVENTED BY AMERICAN

Carries Prussic Acid and Destroys About Everything in Radius of Explosion

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless)
GLOUCESTER, Massachusetts, December 22.—John Hays Hammond, Jr., whose experiments with wireless have enabled him to invent a device whereby the movements of a ship at sea may be directed from shore, has perfected a terrible projectile, more deadly and destructive than any heretofore brought into practical use.

The projectile, which may be fired as an ordinary shell, is so constructed that the steel interior becomes molten five seconds after being fired and is a white hot mixture when the shell strikes and explodes, setting fire to everything inflammable within the radius of the explosion.

As an added detail, the interior of the shell is filled with hydrocyanic (prussic) acid, the fumes from which kill almost instantly and which prevent the approach of any fire fighters.

The United States government is now experimenting with the new projectile at the Sandy Hook proving grounds, while the agents of the belligerent governments of Europe are endeavoring to purchase the invention for use in the present war.

ANOTHER ARMY AVIATOR LOSES LIFE IN FLIGHT

Machine Carrying Lieutenant Gerstner and Captain Muller Collapses—Former Drowns

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless)
OCEANSIDE, California, December 22.—Another Army aviator yesterday gave up his life in the performance of his duty, making the eighteenth aviator who has thus died in the government service since the experimenting with flying machines began.

Yesterday's victim was Lieut. F. J. Gerstner, Tenth Cavalry, who had been on duty with the aviation school, and who was less than two years out of the Military Academy.

He accompanied Captain Muller, who was pilot of one of the six army scout airplanes which started on the test flight from San Diego to Los Angeles, going as observer. The machine collapsed, falling into the sea near Las Flores.

A machine being flown by Captain Paterson was nearby when the accident happened, and in it Captain Muller was rescued.

MEMBER OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENT IN CUSTODY

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless)
BLOEMFONTEIN, December 22.—Barond Wessal, a member of the South African parliament from Bethlehem, has been arrested here in account of his pronounced pro-German tendencies.

GERMAN-OWNED SHIPS SEIZED OFF FALKLAND

Death of Von Spee Reported by Admiral Sturdee, British Conqueror

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless)
LONDON, December 22.—The British admiralty announces that the German-owned steamships Baden and Santa Isabel have been captured near the scene of the recent naval battle off the Falkland Islands by British cruisers.

ADMIRAL VON SPEE LOST

(Associated Press by Commercial Cable)
MONTEVIDEO, December 22.—Admiral Sturdee, commander of the British fleet that met and smashed the German squadron off the Falkland Islands, arrived here today on his flagship, the 17,000-ton dreadnought-cruiser Invincible.

Admiral Sturdee says that the British losses in the naval battle were eight killed and fourteen wounded. Admiral von Spee, commander of the German squadron, his two sons and the entire crew of the German flagship, the Gneisenau, were drowned.

The Invincible, after the battle, showed the marks of six shells.

SATISFACTORY GAIN CLAIMED BY ALLIES AT BATTLE FRONTS

Series of Hard-Fought Engagements Ends Day. In France and Belgium, While Russians Claim To Have Reversed Tide of the Austro-German Successes In the East

BERLIN CONFIDENT

LONDON, DECEMBER 22.—VERY SATISFACTORY FROM the Allies' point of view were the dispatches received from the various battlefronts on the continent yesterday.

In France and Belgium, after a series of hard-fought engagements, the Allies ended the day with a number of satisfactory gains. The fleet participated in the fighting, shelling the Germans from their positions from Middelkerke along the Belgian coast almost to the Dutch border.

RUSSIANS MEET GERMAN ADVANCE

In Poland the Russians are meeting the German attempts to advance further against the center, while in the Miawa region the invaders were driven back across the border into Prussia. The fighting in Poland and in Galicia is being carried on in deep snow and with the weather bitterly cold, which fact is operating in the Russians' favor and is creating much suffering among the Kaiser's troops.

In Galicia the Austrian advance from the Carpathian passes has been checked and the Russians are again on the offensive.

SNOW ENDS SEVERE FIGHTING

Snow has brought to an end the severe fighting which has been in progress around Erzerum, in Turkey-in-Asia.

The most important advices from Petrograd regarding the situation in Poland were contained in a brief dispatch last night, which said:

"The fact that our armies have adopted a narrower front is the outcome of a decision to meet the German concentration."

CHANGE OF TACTICS NOT EXPLAINED

No details are given as to the military reasons for this decision. It is taken to mean that the policy of conducting operations simultaneously along the entire front is abandoned at present, either because the developments have made it imperative to mass a great army to check the German advance, or in the hope of inflicting a decisive defeat upon the enemy's main forces while far from their fortified bases.

GERMANS RETIRE TOWARDS NEIDENBURG

Petrograd announced last night officially: "In the region of Miawa the Germans have retired in the direction of Neidenburg, in East Prussia; and Lautenburg, in West Prussia."

"The operations in Galicia are all favorable to the Russian armies."

"One Austrian division operating in the vicinity of Dukla Pass was defeated and broken up in a final bayonet charge, in which the enemy lost 500 killed and thousands captured."

SLAVS ARE ENCIRCLING PRZEMYSL

"The Przemyśl garrison has been making attempts to break through the encircling Russian line. These attacks were repulsed and the garrison driven back into the fortifications after sustaining heavy losses."

Yesterday's official dispatches from Petrograd reported the change in the situation in Poland, when the Russian army in the center took up a position to defend Warsaw and awaited the onslaught of Von Hindenburg's army.

RUSSIAN PHALANX SOLIDLY ENTRENCHED

The announcement said: "Blocked at the end of a long forward drive toward Warsaw, 200,000 German soldiers have vainly attempted for the last three days to cross the Bzura river."

"The Russians are solidly entrenched on the right bank and are heavily supported by artillery. Every attempt of the Teutons to press forward has been hurled back."

TEUTONS ATTACK MUSCOVITE POSITIONS

Berlin advices yesterday no longer mentioned a continued pursuit of the Russians, but began to speak of "attacking the Russian positions."

The dispatch reads: "The situation in the eastern arena is unchanged. We continue our attacks against the enemy's positions."

Military experts say that the Germans have driven their advancing wedge in the center, to within thirty miles of Warsaw, but that its further progress is checked by the Russians, who are holding a strong position.

RETREAT OF GERMANS FORECASTED

The Russians are being heavily reinforced in this section, and a German retreat is forecasted, similar to that which took place several weeks ago when the Germans were almost in reach of Warsaw and were driven back fifty miles. Each side claims that the enemy has lost heavily in these operations.